Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, SCUL, BB

SUBJ: FURTHER DETAILS OF YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE IN BARBADOS

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1369

- 1. NEWS RELEASE FROM THE BARBADOS YOUTH FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE CLAIMS 12 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED TO PLAN AND RAISE FUNDS TO SEND A 30-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM BARBADOS TO THE FESTIVAL IN CUBA NEXT MONTH. RELEASE INDICATES DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY FORMER UNIVERSITY ACTIVISTS FRANCIS BELLE AND RICKY PARRIS, WHO IS ALSO COMMITTEE SECRETARY.
- 2. IN RECENT RADIO INTERVIEW, PARRIS INDICATED THE COMMITTEE
 WOULD BE HOLDING A NUMBER OF FUND-RAISING EVENTS TO RAISE
 TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION MONEY FOR THE DELEGATION,
 WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INCORPORATING A REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH OF
 THE PARTICIPATING GROUPS PLUS A BARBADIAN
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DANCE GROUP.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERSTING TO NOTE THAT BELLE AND PARRIS BETWEEN THEM ARE MEMBERS OR OFFICERS OF SIX OF THE 12 GROUPS THEY CLAIM ARE SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IN FACT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION,

BARBADOS PEACE COUNCIL, PEOPLES' YOUTH GROUP ARE ONE SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG MEN UNDER THREE DIFFERENT NAMES. SPOKESMEN FOR THE BARBADOS YOUTH COUNCIL AND FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE. TWO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THE RELEASE CLAIMS AS INVOLVED IN THE FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS, DENY THAT EITHER GROUP HAS VOTED TO SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE. THE BARBADIAN DANCE GROUP, FROM THE YORUBA CULTURAL FOUNDATION, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE FESTIVAL ONLY, ACCORDING TO ITS DIRECTOR, NOT IN THE POLIITICAL, YOUTH OR STUDENT DISCUSSIONS. WHAT HAS EMERGED SO FAR FROM THE EFFORTS TO REALLY ORGANIZE AND FINANCE A REPRESENTATIVE BARBADIAN DELEGATION IS A GENERAL LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF MAJOR GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS. THE BARBADIAN DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE A COLLECTION OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING LITTLE IF ANYTHING BARBADIAN. END COMMENT. ORTIZ

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